

interview with Mr. William Cooper, who was an agent for the sale of an extensive tract of wild land in this region. He soon engaged to accompany Mr. Cooper into this part of the State, and survey some land for him; having previously had some knowledge of this art. They proceeded down the Susquehanna, and leaving his family at Mr. Lane's, near Windsor, they entered this region. Here they were engaged some weeks in running out some lots of land upon the new road which had been constructed from the south part of the State. It was thought that this road would soon call in a large number of settlers. While thus engaged, he surveyed and purchased the lot of land as above mentioned. Having finished the intended surveys, they started homewards on the new road. They soon came to the camp of Mr. Samuel Preston, who, with Mr. John Hilborn, were then engaged in constructing this road. They had then encamped on or near the head waters of the Starucca Creek, about twelve miles from this village, and in the present township of Soott. Mr. Preston writes in his journal under date June 28, 1789, concerning his first interview with Mr. Stanton, thus: "While I was directing letters to send by John Hilborn, William Cooper came to my camp, on his way to Otsego, as also his surveyor, Samuel Stanton. We moved to the camp by the spring, where I filled up for William Cooper several blank deeds, mortgages, &c." On the following day, Mr. Stanton signed, in this place, the deed for the above lot of land, containing 322 acres. For this he was to pay the sum of £322 to Thomas

Rogers, of Philadelphia, for whom, as proprietor, Mr. Cooper acted as agent.

It seems from a note in the first volume of the Town Records, in Mr. Stanton's handwriting, that on the next day he bought a large quantity of land in addition to the above lot. The note is as follows: "Samuel Stanton bought of William Cooper, agent for Thomas Franklin, William, and Andrew Craig, and others, nearly 3,000 acres on the 30th of June, 1789, and began to work on the land in June, 1790. Built a house and cleared some land."

After the business pertaining to this purchase was completed, Mr. Cooper left on the same day for Otsego, and Mr. Stanton remained in the employ of Mr. Preston. They soon finished this road to the State line—its proper terminus, according to the requisition of the "Act" which provided for its construction. He also aided Mr. Preston in constructing his own road down to the mouth of the Cascade Creek, on the Susquehanna river. Here Mr. Preston began a settlement which he supposed would eventually be a place of much business. During the summer he cleared several acres of land in this fertile valley; erected several dwelling houses; built a store, a blacksmith's shop, and a saw-mill. He named the place Harmony. Mr. Henry Drinker was associated with him in this enterprise; also Mr. John Hilborn, who afterwards made it the place of his future residence. Mr. Preston, however, superintended these improvements, and afterwards constructed a road connecting this place with the Delaware river, at